

TRANSCRIPT October 9, 2007

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councilmember Marilyn Praisner, President Councilmember Michael Knapp, Vice-President

Councilmember Phil Andrews
Councilmember Marc Elrich
Councilmember Nancy Floreen
Councilmember Councilmember George Leventhal

Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg



- 1 Council President Praisner,
- 2 Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Please rise for invocation by Reverend Susan
- 3 Keller, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church.

4

- 5 Reverend Susan Keller,
- 6 Let us take a moment of silence. Almighty God, giver of all good things, let us take a
- 7 moment of thanks for the beauty and majesty of the land of our County. Help us to
- 8 honor the wisdom of the natural order of creation and be stewards of that creation for
- 9 the future. Help us this day in the right use of the many resources of this County, for the
- good distribution of the common good in our community. Let us take a moment of
- thanks for the great diversity of people and cultures, for the men and women who have
- been dully called to serve on this Council and their supporting staff. We thank you, God,
- also for the foundation of freedom and equality of the governance of this land. Help this
- 14 Council and all citizens to govern with justice and compassion. This day we also give
- thanks for the work for the health of women in our community. For the care and
- 16 concerns of persons who are differently abled than we are. And especially, we give
- thanks for the children and youth of our community. Help us to guide them away from
- groups of violence and drugs into a life of values, sustained by your presence. This day
- we ask humbly that your spirit guide us all to illumination of your will for us. The grace to
- 20 listen and discern and a spirit of wisdom in making choices for the welfare and peace of
- our County. In God's name we ask these prayers for our leaders and for ourselves.
- 22 Amen.

23

- 24 Council President Praisner,
- 25 Amen, thank you very much. We have two presentations this morning. The first is a
- proclamation in recognition of Mental Illness Awareness Week by Councilmember
- 27 Trachtenberg.

- 29 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
- [Inaudible] join me. We're here this morning to acknowledge Mental Illness Awareness
- Week which runs from October 7th through the 13th. We're also here to recognize NAMI
- 32 Montgomery County for their wonderful contribution over the years here in Montgomery
- County for the mentally ill and the families of the mentally ill. And I want to speak just
- personally about the assistance that I received years ago from NAMI Montgomery
- 35 County. And actually it was NAMI Montgomery County that helped me find a way to get
- help for my son who is schizophrenic but also NAMI Montgomery County helped me
- learn more about mental illness and helped my daughter adjust to having a sibling with
- mental illness, but very importantly NAMI Montgomery County really taught me how to
- be a voice for my son and for others like him. And I want to thank Esther personally for
- 40 that. I also want to acknowledge that in light of the celebration of Mental Illness
- 41 Awareness Week an important thing to remember is that recovery is possible. That what
- NAMI does is offer families hope, assistance with the hard work and support that's
- required to make sure that everyone who has mental illness has the opportunity to
- recover. So, again, I'm going to read the proclamation which, in effect, acknowledges



- that since 1990 mental health advocates across the County and this country have joined
- 2 together early in October to celebrate Mental Illness Awareness Week, which takes
- 3 place this year October 7th through the 13th; and. The National Alliance on Mental
- 4 Illness (NAMI) is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to
- 5 improving the lives of persons living with serious mental illness and their families; and.
- 6 Whereas, NAMI Montgomery County volunteers provide mental health resources to
- 7 families and consumers struggling with not only the effects of mental illness, but the
- 8 stigma as well; and. Whereas, NAMI Montgomery County advocates for
- 9 nondiscriminatory local, state and federal policies based on the recommendations of the
- 10 NAMI Maryland Public Policy Committee and the NAMI Montgomery County Advocacy
- 11 Committee and has been active in the fight for federal insurance parity; and. Whereas,
- recognizing the importance of Mental Illness Awareness Week, the Montgomery County
- 13 Council applauds NAMI Montgomery County's leadership in working locally to educate
- our community on treatment options as well as to increase funding and improve
- services and housing opportunities in the County; Now, therefore be it resolved that the
- 16 Montgomery County Council, hereby proclaims Oct. 7-13, Mental Illness Awareness
- Week in Montgomery County. Presented on this 9th day of October and signed by
- 18 Marilyn J. Praisner, our Council President.

19

- 20 Esther Kaleko-Kravitz,
- 21 Thank you so much.

22

- 23 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
- 24 And I want to ask Esther if she'd like to make some remarks at this time.

25

- 26 Council President Praisner,
- 27 Esther, if you could move up towards the mic, I think it would be easier to.

28

- 29 Esther Kaleko-Kravitz,
- 30 Okay.

31

- 32 Council President Praisner,
- Thank you.

34

- 35 Esther Kaleko-Kravitz.
- I want to thank you very much Duchy for giving us this proclamation. Yes, we've been
- 37 fighting the stigma and all the barriers for mental illness for a long time. And trying to
- provide more sources of treatment, more places to refer people and advocate for those
- people who cannot advocate for themselves and who must count on others to advocate
- 40 for them. So, the families and the consumers thank you very much as well as our
- organization for recognizing the hard work that we try to do for the most vulnerable
- 42 population in Montgomery County. Thank you.

43

44 Councilmember Trachtenberg,

3

This transcript has been prepared from television closed captioning and is not certified for its form or content. Please note that errors and/or omissions may have occurred.



1 Thank you very much. [Applause].

2

- 3 Neil Greenberger,
- 4 Thank you.

5

- 6 Esther Kaleko-Kravitz,
- 7 Thank you.

8

- 9 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
- 10 Thank you. [Applause].

11

- 12 Council President Praisner,
- Our second Proclamation is in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. And it's
- being presented led by Councilmember Floreen.

15

- 16 Councilmember Floreen,
- 17 Thank you Madam President. Good morning, if I could ask the members of the
- 18 Montgomery County Breast Cancer Work Group to come on up and join me, I'd very
- much appreciate it. We have a nice crowd here today. It's sad that we have a crowd, but
- at least you're here, that's a good thing. Let me just say that the Montgomery County
- 21 Breast Cancer Work Group brings together organizations in the community that
- 22 provides breast healthcare services and their goal is to reduce breast cancer disparities
- by identifying gaps and working together to fill those gaps in the area of outreach,
- education and screening. And because we have such a wonderful crowd here with
- complex names and associations, I'm going to ask each of them to share with us their
- name and the group that they're associated with. So, if you could step to the mic and let
- 27 us know.

28

- 29 Donna Carter,
- 30 My name is Donna Carter, I'm the Program Manager for Montgomery County's
- Women's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program.

32

- 33 Judith Macon.
- Judith Macon, Manager of Cancer Outreach and Education Programs at Suburban
- 35 Hospital Cancer Care Program.

36

- 37 Raquel Samson,
- 38 Raquel Samson, Primary Care Coalition, Susan G. Komen Community Academic
- 39 Partnership Project Manager.

40

- 41 Agnes Saenz,
- 42 Agnes Saenz, Community Ministries of Rockville and we have a health program named
- [Inaudible] Health Program where we do cancer awareness.

44

4

This transcript has been prepared from television closed captioning and is not certified for its form or content. Please note that errors and/or omissions may have occurred.



- 1 Maria Triantes,
- 2 Maria Triantes, Primary Care Coalition Lead Organization for the Komen Grant.

3

- 4 Judy Lichty,
- 5 Judy Lichty, Washington Adventist Hospital Health and Wellness Department with the
- 6 cancer outreach.

7

- 8 Councilmember Floreen,
- 9 Thank you.

10

- 11 Candice Moran,
- 12 Candice Moran, Cancer Outreach Coordinator for Shady Grove Adventist Hospital.

13

- 14 Patricia Horton,
- 15 Patricia Horton, Senior Administrator Special Project Officer for Public Health Services
- 16 of the Health Officer.

17

- 18 Shelly Grant,
- 19 Shelly Grant, Holy Cross Hospital. I am the Manager of Community Outreach and the
- 20 Project Coordinator for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Education and
- 21 Awareness Program at Holy Cross.

22

- 23 Ann Marie Pulgar,
- 24 Ann Marie Pulgar. I am the Outreach Coordinator for the Asian American Health
- 25 Initiative.

26

- 27 Christy Hoang,
- 28 Christy Hoang, I'm the interim Branch Manager for [Inaudible] People SOS in Maryland
- and we are under the grant for Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness by our HAPI
- 30 Program which is Health Awareness Program for Immigrants.

31

- 32 Christen Liang,
- Christen Liang, I'm the Cancer Program Coordinator for the Asian American Health
- 34 Initiative.

35

- 36 Msache Mwaluko,
- 37 Msache Mwaluko, I'm with the African American Health Program.

38

- 39 Unidentified
- 40 [Inaudible] with the Montgomery County Cancer Crusade.

41

- 42 Irene
- 1'm Irene [Inaudible] with the Montgomery County Cancer Crusade and also with
- 44 Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, the cancer screening

5

This transcript has been prepared from television closed captioning and is not certified for its form or content. Please note that errors and/or omissions may have occurred.



program, also the co-principal investigator of the Susan G. Komen Grants Fund with the Primary Care Coalition.

2 3 4

5

6 7

8

9

10

11 12

13

14 15

16

17

18

1

Councilmember Floreen,

Well, thank you so much for joining us here today. We are very grateful to all of you for your work. Come on, you can get this a little closer here. What a tremendous amount of resources that we're devoting to a terrible thing. As some of you may know, every three minutes, a woman in the United States is diagnosed with breast cancer. And breast cancer incidents in women has increased from 1 in 20 in 1960 to 1 in 8 today. The good news is that as a result of early detection and improved treatments the fatality rate has declined by 2.3% per year since 1990. But it's still way too much. At this time, there are about 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in the United States. That's really something and we hope that we're going to have a lot more over time. I am particularly moved by this because my Chief of Staff Merle Steiner is celebrating her 25th year of a survivor. [Applause]. Come on up Merle. And I know that many of us in the room have had personal experience with this either through family or individually. I know Judy from Suburban has had this terrible experience and I know others have been similarly afflicted. But here we are to recognize the work you're doing, and to remind all women get those mammograms. Guys, tell your wives and all the rest of us.

19 20 21

Unidentified

Mothers, grandmothers.

22 23 24

25

26 27

28 29

30

31

32

33

34 35

36

44

Councilmember Floreen,

Everyone needs to keep a very close eye on this terrible disease. So here we go. Here's our proclamation. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and since the program began in 1985, mammography rates have more than doubled for women over age 50 and older and breast cancer deaths have declined; and. Whereas, new cases of breast cancer in the United States are estimated to exceed 180,000 in 2007; and. Whereas, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women, apart from skin cancer; and. Whereas, mammography screening remains the best available method to detect breast cancer early, and barriers to mammography screening can be overcome with health education and programs to make mammography more accessible to women; and. Whereas, more than 800 Montgomery County women are diagnosed with breast cancer every year; and. Whereas, although, Montgomery County has the highest incidence of breast cancer in the state, it also has the highest survival rate; and. Yeah. [Applause]. Whereas, approximately 3,000 uninsured women receive free mammograms in Montgomery County. Now, therefore be it resolved that the Montgomery County Council hereby proclaims October 2007 as Breast Cancer

37

38

39

40 Awareness Month in Montgomery County and we call upon government officials, health

41 care professionals and residents of Montgomery County to observe this month with

42 appropriate programs and activities to encourage mammograms and to increase

43 awareness of breast cancer and its prevention. Presented this 9th day of October in the

year 2007 signed by our indomitable President Marilyn Praisner . So thank you very



much for your work and for this really important reminder. And Raquel, here's our picture.

3

- 4 Neil Greenberger,
- 5 Can I get everybody to move together, but I need to see everybody's face. Everybody
- 6 move around. The person in the back in the white, I think I need you in the front.
- 7 [Laughter].

8

- 9 Councilmember Floreen,
- No hiding, ladies. [Laughter]. [Multiple voices]. Front page of the Washington Post
- 11 tomorrow. [Laughter].

12

- 13 Neil Greenberger,
- Okay, that looks great. Person, in the back, I just need to see you better. [Laughter].
- Okay. Person all the way in the back. [Laughter]. Okay. Here we go again. That looks
- good. A couple more. Last one, everybody smiling. Thank you.

17

- 18 Councilmember Floreen,
- 19 Thank you. And Raguel would you like to make some comments?

20

- 21 Raquel Samson,
- I would. The Primary Care Coalition with Dr. Irene [inaudible], through the Susan G.
- 23 Komen Community Academic Partnership have come together to help join members of
- the community working in breast health care. Our goal is to reduce health disparities
- although we've seen a reduction in deaths due to breast cancer, we're still working with
- the most vulnerable populations. And this group which is an amazing, phenomenal
- 27 group in all areas of breast health care are working through outreach, education and
- through increasing mammography screening to help reduce those disparities for the
- women in Montgomery County. We are so pleased that you brought this to our group.
- Thank you so much.

31

- 32 Councilmember Floreen,
- Well, thank you for what you're doing and let us know how we can help you more.

34

- 35 Raquel Samson,
- We will.

37

- 38 Councilmember Floreen,
- 39 And we have another comment here.

- 41 Merle Steiner.
- 42 I just want to say that tonight, for those people working with the Susan G. Komen,
- Nancy Brinker is going to be presented with the Women of Valor Award in a dinner
- downtown that I'm going to so that's very wonderful. And for those of you who are



survivors, there's nothing more encouraging to someone who gets breast cancer than to see somebody who's a survivor.

4 Raquel Samson,

5 And we do have several in our group and I appreciate that.

67 Councilmember Floreen,

8 You can do it. Okay. Thank you very much.

9

10 Raquel Samson,11 Thank you so much. [Applause]. [Multiple voices].

12

- 13 Council President Praisner,
- 14 Thank you all very much. It's terrific to see you all so involved on this very important
- issue for women. General business, Ms. Lauer I think I see you somewhere.

17 Linda Lauer,

18 Yes.

19

16

- 20 Council President Praisner,
- 21 Any Agenda and Calendar Changes?

22

- 23 Linda Lauer,
- We just have one. I just want to note that next Tuesday there's been a little change.
- 25 There will be a PHED meeting at 9:00 a.m. and the Council session will begin at 11:00.
- Thank you. And there were no petitions this week.

27

- 28 Council President Praisner,
- 29 Thank you. Okay, no petitions and that one additional PHED Committee meeting. Well,
- 30 now we'll move to approval of minutes. Madam Clerk.

31

32 Council Clerk,

33 You have the --. 34

- 35 Council President Praisner.
- Excuse me ladies, if you could leave quietly because we do need to conduct business, I
- would appreciate it. We all would. Thank you very much. Again, Madam Clerk.

38

- 39 Council Clerk.
- 40 You have the Minutes of September 20th and 25th for approval.

41

- 42 Council President Praisner,
- 43 Is there a motion?



1 Councilmember Trachtenberg, 2 So moved. 3 4 Council President Praisner, 5 Councilmember Trachtenberg, is there a second? 6 7 Councilmember Ervin, 8 Second. 9 10 Council President Praisner,

11 Councilmember Ervin. All in favor of the approval of the Minutes of September 20th and 25th? That is unanimous, thank you. We will now move to the Consent Calendar going 12 13 from a very long one a few weeks ago, we have one that is only two items. Is there a

14 motion?

15

16 Councilmember Andrews,

So moved. 17

18

19 Council President Praisner.

20 Councilmember Andrews, second Council Vice-President Knapp. No lights, all in favor 21 of approval of the Consent Calendar. That is unanimous. We'll move, right on time, to 22 action on the resolution to affirm rejection of incorporation of Rollingwood Village of 23 Chevy Chase. Oh, there you are Mr. Faden. Any comments that you'd like to make 24 before I entertain any motions?

25

26 Mike Faden,

27 No.

28 29

Council President Praisner.

30 No, okay. Councilmember Berliner.

31 32

Councilmember Berliner,

33 Thank you Madam Chair, Madam President. First, I wanted to say that I'm sure like my

34 colleagues I reviewed the statements that were submitted to us by the organizing

35 Committee as well as Mr. Nelson, Robert Nelson, and I wanted to commend Mr. Nelson

36 in particular for his submission. For the most part, I thought it had a very respectful tone

37 and was cogently argued. But I wanted to briefly respond to those submissions and

38 indicate where we differ in our approach to this issue. First, the organizing Committee

argues that County law requires the Council to support municipalization. In support of 39

40 that assertion, they point to a provision of the County Code which states that "it is in the

public interest to foster the concept of municipal home rule ". Our counsel Mr. Faden 41

42 has pointed out that the provision of the Code relates to the County's obligation to 43 support existing municipal governments and not the creation of new municipal

44 governments. Even Mr. Nelson agrees with this analysis. He states that "this section of



17 10 176

October 9, 2007

1 the Code relates especially to the terms of the relationship between Montgomery 2 County and its existing municipalities". Accordingly, I do not believe that County law 3 speaks at all to this Council's obligation to support the creation of new municipal 4 governments. Second, Mr. Nelson argues that because state law provides for a 17% 5 rebate to municipal governments, it is the County's obligation to "uphold the law" rather than engage in a practice akin to "nullification". We disagree. As our Council has 6 7 previously noted, state law expressly leaves to the County the determination of whether 8 allowing a referendum on this matter is in the public interest. It would be a dereliction of 9 our duty not to assess whether in light of the state law incorporation serves the broader 10 public interest. Mr. Nelson implies that members of the Council question whether ruling would attain any "real benefits from incorporation". Speaking only for myself, I 11 12 acknowledge that there could be real benefits to the residents of Rollingwood proper of 13 incorporation. However, that is not the end of the analysis, but only the beginning. The tougher call, the call that this Council made on a unanimous vote, was that incorporation 14 under the terms of the existing state law is not in the County's overall interests. Finally, 15 16 the Committee and Mr. Nelson take most umbrage with the fact that the compelling or critical need standard applied to Rollingwood was both unprecedented and sprung on 17 the community at the last moment. I want to say that I have some sympathy for the 18 19 community with respect to when it first became aware that this new standard was under 20 consideration. In the best of all worlds, this would have been shared earlier, however, 21 there was no conspiracy here, and no bad faith. The fact that this standard was not 22 revealed sooner was nothing more or less than that this Council's focus and that of the 23 staff did not really turn to this matter until shortly before the public hearing. Again, in a perfect world, perhaps this would have been articulated earlier but I see this as more a 24 25 function of human nature than I do bad faith. On the other hand, the community itself 26 has to appreciate that its proposal is unprecedented. No municipality has sought 27 incorporation in Montgomery County or in the rest of the state for that matter since the law was modified in 1954. As a result, it is hardly surprising that the Council would 28 29 adopt a new standard in response to an unprecedented proposal. That happens all the 30 time in both our judicial and legislative system. That is unfortunately the price of being 31 the first one to ask for something like this. My own view of the compelling or critical 32 need test is that it is directly related to the fact that the state law provides a 17% 33 reduction in County revenues as a result of municipalization. None of the prior 34 proposals for municipalization cost the County these dollars. As a result, I believe and I 35 think my colleagues generally hold a similar view, that in light of the fiscal impact on the rest of the County, it is important that proponents of municipalization show why it is so 36 37 critically needed. In that regard, I do not believe that the mere enhancements of existing 38 services or the general and understandable desire for home rule is sufficient. There are 39 other means by which a community can seek to enhance current services, such as 40 special taxing districts, and there are many options for creating and enhancing 41 community. Would it have been better for the Council to have previously explored this 42 broader issue? Yes. But again since there were no proposals for incorporation, it is 43 understandable why previous Councils would not have spent its scarce resources 44 exploring an abstract issue. However, I did consider very carefully the organizing



1 Committee's last minute request for a deferral of this matter until such time as the 2 Council conducts a larger review of its policy towards municipalization. And I do want to 3 bring to my colleagues' attention that on October 5th at approximately 2 o'clock, that's 4 on Friday, we did get a formal request that's included in your packet that asked for a 5 deferral of this matter. So I looked at that very carefully and I ultimately concluded that deferral would not serve the Rollingwood community, those that oppose incorporation 6 as well as supporters. This petition in my view would have been rejected by this Council 7 8 on the basis of the boundaries. No reassessment of the larger public policy issues 9 would solve that perceived defect. As a result I personally believe it is best to move 10 forward. I do have an amendment to the resolution, my colleagues should have it before them, that would call upon the Council to begin the larger public policy process that 11 12 Rollingwood seeks and that the 1997 OLO report envisioned. I think this petition and 13 expressions of interest that our offices received about incorporation warrants a broader look at the County's perspective on incorporation. My own view at this point is that the 14 15 compelling or critical need test is appropriate as long as the state law remains as it is. I 16 continue to believe that the state law should be amended to allow municipalization on terms other than requiring a 17% subsidy by the rest of the County. This can be 17 achieved without jeopardizing the status of existing municipal governments. However, 18 19 this is just one member's view and the larger community should have an opportunity to 20 participate in this conversation. I hope this Council will initiate such a process so that we 21 have a larger framework for consideration of municipalization petitions in the future. 22 Madam Chair, I have shared with my colleagues that language. I am sure that that 23 language can be improved upon. It simply is an effort to ensure that in the future we have a broader framework for considering such matters without hamstringing this 24 25 Council or future Councils in its individual determinations. So I would request fully move the adoption either of that amendment, I know that the Council President may have a 26 27 desire to separate this matter out and have it be voted on separately as a separate resolution. I am open to alternative paths to achieve the similar result. 28

29 30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

Council President Praisner,

Thank you. The Councilmember has brought this issue to my attention yesterday although I am seeing the language for the first time today and the concern I have is that I think they are two separate issues that are before us. One is the rejection of the incorporation request of Rollingwood Village of Chevy Chase. The second is whether the Council as a body desires to make any additional statement or take any action at this point on the issues of incorporation for the future. And that is, in my view, a much separate and much broader issue than rejection of the incorporation of Rollingwood which stands on its own and does not require a specific action of this nature. Let me also say that in the context of the request of the Councilmember to broaden and to some extent develop a set of criteria to consider any future petition that may come before the Council on this issue, having reviewed the Office of Legislative Oversight's previous work on emerging communities and taxation, et cetera, and incorporation issues that were part of the base study which I know the rest of my colleagues have looked at as well I also have the view that the answer may be different in different



situations depending upon varieties of situations that may be in front of us either with a request, or with financing mechanisms and the implication. And the concern with the proposal, that I have with the proposal that Councilmember Berliner is suggesting is that there is the possibility of developing a specific and discreet set of criteria before any resolution or proposal for incorporation might be presented to us. That I think would cloud the process to the extent that it does not, or could lead people to assume that it's a slam dunk one way or the other or a rejection automatically if you don't meet all of the criteria that might be developed and I think each situation is going to be, has to be evaluated based on that situation and also, I don't want to limit future Councilmembers' ability to make judgments based on the facts as they exist in that situation. So that's my reluctance. I have no problem with suggesting that the Council will continue to look at the issue of municipalities in a broad sense and perhaps may develop some review and research on the issue, but I am really concerned about developing criteria that would be used as a judgment for elected officials in the future on an issue that may depend upon what blocks, what situation we're talking about, what neighborhoods from a configuration of the proposal in front of us, so that's, while I'm sympathetic to your concern Councilmember Berliner, that's why I have a problem with what you are proposing. Councilmember Leventhal's light is on.

18 19 20

21

22

23

24 25

2627

28 29

30

31

32

33

34

35

3637

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

1

2

3

4

5

6 7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14 15

16

17

Councilmember Leventhal,

Well I want to strongly associate myself with the remarks of the Council President. I understand why Mr. Berliner is offering this amendment but I will not support it. It hasn't actually been seconded so it isn't currently before us. Mr. Berliner spoke and has consistently spoke thoughtfully and clearly and with some regret because you know, many of our constituents are disappointed by the decision this Council made. But as he always does Mr. Berliner spoke right on point when he said a few minutes ago that this Council has limited resources and that it is not surprising that the Council had not spent an abundance of time developing a procedure whereby new municipalities could incorporate because there had not been until Rollingwood any petitions for incorporation. My concern is that if we now in the midst of this reaffirming our earlier decision on Rollingwood develop such a procedure, it would give false hope to Rollingwood. I'm quite clear in my mind about the reason I cast my vote earlier. I'm not confused. And I have, although I was not able to be present for the second public hearing, I did watch the videotape and we do have a disagreement on the merits of this and that's going to occur in public service. Sometimes we have to cast votes that are not agreed to by 100% of our constituents. But if we were to develop a procedure now the residents of Rollingwood are watching this intensely, closely and surely a new petition will be resubmitted from Rollingwood that will adhere to whatever is the new policy that the Council adopts and I again think that we're giving false hope to that community. Other than Rollingwood, there still are no other incorporation proposals before us. And so therefore having made the decision I anticipate now twice on Rollingwood, to embark upon a procedure for allowing incorporation when we've already said no to this incorporation I think would not adhere to Mr. Berliner's earlier and apt observation that we have limited resources and that the Council can only fruitfully spend



its time on things that are in fact before us and that are of some urgency. And I agree very much and I was going to say it and I'm glad the Council President said it and I'm sorry to repeat it except I think it is worth noting that more than one Councilmember feels this way, that for this Council to adopt a procedure now would indeed limit the discretion of future Councils on which we won't serve and I don't think there is any lack of clarity in state law. There's a procedure clearly laid out. It gives discretion to the County Council. The County Council did its job, read the material, considered the issue, cast a vote, we're going to cast a second vote today and so I don't see the need for any further clarity although I have read the written material submitted by the proponents of incorporation. I do understand their point of view. We do have a disagreement. And that happens in a democracy.

11 12 13

1

2

3

4

5

6 7

8

9

10

Council President Praisner,

14 Vice-President Knapp.

15 16

17

18 19

20

21 22

23

24 25

26

27

28

29 30

31

32

33

34

35

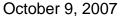
3637

38

39 40 Councilmember Knapp,

Thank you Madam President. I would also I guess associate myself with the remarks of the previous two speakers. Representing the up County where there are a number emerging communities, the conversation of incorporation comes up guite frequently and I spent a long time on the phone yesterday with one of our local reporters in which she was trying to see other specific criteria in which a community or there is a compelling case for incorporation. And I spent a long time talking through the fact that I think there are as many different reasons as there are communities for incorporation and I think there are as many reasons potentially not do it. And so I think it's very difficult for a Council to establish a set of criteria on the front end until it's clear why a community is coming forward and there are many reasons I think even within communities to look at incorporation and that's been some of the challenges we've been facing in many of the communities in the up County. And so I think, I also appreciate the sentiment with which Councilmember Berliner has brought this amendment forward. At the very least, I think it should be done separately, but I think it is very, I think it would be very difficult for us to come up with a way to establish criteria. That being said, I think it's certainly something that we need to have some further consideration and dialogue around because I think it's an issue that's out there and I think we should have a greater level of familiarity. But that being said, it may not come forward to this Council and so while we can talk about it and there be the legislative dialogue I think it would depend upon when a community is ready to come forward. And so, it's always been official to have a public discourse on an important issue, but I think it would be difficult to frame this in any particular way, unless you have a proposal in front of you to examine it. So I think that makes it very difficult. And so I appreciate the comments of the Council President kind of setting us up because I think it is difficult for us to figure how we would put parameters around how we could consider an incorporation in future cases.

- 43 Council President Praisner,
- 44 Councilmember Elrich.





1 2 3

Councilmember Elrich,

I guess I find myself somewhere between the previous speakers and Roger on this.

4 5

Council President Praisner,

6 Not surprising.

7 8

9

10

11

12

13

14 15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

24 25

26

27

28 29

30

31

32

33

34

Councilmember Elrich,

Not surprising. Probably because I am a strong believer in municipal government and I think that it has a lot of value. I do share the concern about the timing of doing this now and the issue of false hope and what gets raised with this but I also think that it is an issue that we ought to at some point address and there certainly must be ways to address it that don't require a laundry list that precipitates a definite action on the part of the Council. Because we already have a list of things. We considered financial impact on the County. We considered the legitimacy of the boundaries. There are already lists of things that we had in our mind as legitimate reasons to either consider this proposal favorably or unfavorably. And I'm not going to rehash the debate other than to say that I was uncomfortable with the revenue situation that was presented in this. And I was most uncomfortable with the boundary situation that was presented in this. And I found myself going from a supporter to an opponent of the incorporation based on that. So I think you know, again, it speaks to the point that the Council has to be able to exercise judgment on the merit of these things but I think you know the Council will find itself in an interesting position if the incorporating group were to come back and respond to our concerns, and then we were to invent new concerns for rejecting this. And that's why I think people deserve some kind of certainty, at least of what framework we're thinking about when we evaluate these proposals. And I think some of this is going to change when the municipal rebate taskforce gets its work done with the Council and the County will certainly understand better what the impact of municipalization might be on the County. And we will have, if Leggett is, if the County Executive is on track for what I think he is on track for, we will have a clearer set of rules that everybody municipal and otherwise agrees to as to what the basis of the rebates should be so the County should be easier to determine what the impact of an incorporation would be on the County. So I would like to explore this but I would like not to explore it now. And I don't know that it needs a formal Committee to explore it or you know Roger, you've done a couple of taskforces already I think.

35 36 37

Council President Praisner,

38 No.

39

40 Councilmember Berliner,

41 I'm done.

42

43 Councilmember Elrich,

I was going to offer you the opportunity to do yet another taskforce.





1 2

- Council President Praisner,
- 3 Councilmember Elrich, I don't believe it requires a separate taskforce and what I was
- 4 going to suggest is we do have, there are more lights and I obviously will let
- 5 Councilmember speak, but I wanted to respond to your question. We do have within the
- 6 context of the Management and Fiscal Policy Committee, the issue of municipalities.
- 7 We also have the OLO report which will be coming which will provide some of the
- 8 financial information and then can provide an issue of asking the MFP Committee which
- 9 would review both that report and the issue of municipalities an opportunity to comment
- on and perhaps bring to the Council suggestions for how to go forward with this issue
- without creating a separate taskforce. I periodically bring the sign out that I have at
- home that says, "God so loved the world that he didn't create a committee." [Laughter].
- But we seem to be able to do so in Montgomery County to compensate. So I would
- recommend that that's the direction in which we could look at this issue and the extent
- to which recommendations for either criteria or an approach or modifications would
- 16 come out of that study or context. Councilmember, more Marc?

17

- 18 Councilmember Elrich,
- 19 No, I'm fine.

20

- 21 Council President Praisner,
- 22 Councilmember Floreen.

23

- 24 Councilmember Floreen.
- 25 Thank you, Madam President. There's been a much very thoughtful conversation on this
- issue and we had the piece that we received from Mr. Nelson on some of the policy
- 27 concerns and some of the issues associated with this I think are very well taken and
- 28 ones that warrant further consideration and Councilmember Berliner I think has you
- know been very responsive to the underlying issues as well and I think our exchanges
- at the public hearings, and I regret I wasn't able to attend the last one, but the
- 31 exchanges have certainly reflected community discontent with process and accessibility
- that I think warrant us to continue to look at. And perhaps Madam President, that's a
- kind of thing that we could look at after we receive the municipal services report.
- Perhaps that's where you were going with that.

35

- 36 Council President Praisner.
- That's exactly what I meant.

- 39 Councilmember Floreen.
- I think that is a way to look at this issue and then, and it's really in keeping with
- 41 Councilmember Berliner's concept here, because he says, recommends that we look at
- 42 this issue in a comprehensive manner and you can't look at it until you've, at the
- conclusion unless you've looked at some of the underlying issues. And I think that might
- 44 put us in a better position to be responsive to these sorts of concerns as they arise on a



regular basis. So I think a partial step towards this goal would put us in a better position to think about and to have a genuine conversation about where we might end up in this arena. And I think the proposal before us, the resolution is the right one for this moment in time but I think we have to continue to think thoughtfully about the future of these kinds of activities and our function in terms of providing services, access and as we've heard often, a seat at the table on the matters that truly matter to small communities.

So, I agree with everyone, I believe. [Laughter].

8 9

Council President Praisner,

- There aren't very many issues on which one can make that kind of comment.
- 11 Councilmember Trachtenberg.

12 13

- Councilmember Trachtenberg,
- Well, I guess I could go so far to say that I agree with pretty much everything that's
- been said here as well. I had put my light on originally because I wanted to let
- 16 Councilmember Berliner know that I thought despite the fact that we have a full work
- load within MFP, I saw this as an issue that we need to address in the future and I was
- figuring once we had that OLO report in hand around municipalities, that would be the
- 19 time to address it. But again I concur with the idea that we need to have much more of a
- comprehensive conversation about this. I am very aware of setting a precedent. That
- was something I think we were all mindful of as we discussed the incorporation, and I
- 22 think not only would we be giving a false hope to the Rollingwood community, part of
- that community, but we could very easily be doing the same thing to other communities
- around the County. And I also have a belief that part of what we do need discuss really
- 24 around the County. And raiso have a belief that part of what we do need discuss really
- is the state law and perhaps tweaking that over time and again I'm not suggesting we're
- going to make any recommendation in that regard, but I think that's part of what needs to be discussed and evaluated around any incorporation. So again. I pretty much agree
- to be discussed and evaluated around any incorporation. So again, I pretty much agree with everyone here and would suggest to Councilmember Berliner that it will be on the
- 29 MFP Committee's schedule no doubt before January 1.

30 31

- Council President Praisner,
- 32 Thank you. Councilmember Berliner.

33

- 34 Councilmember Berliner.
- Well, I find myself in a situation where I agree with everyone, too. [Laughter]. And on
- that basis and on the basis of the assurances that my colleagues have given me that
- 37 this matter will in fact be fleshed out at a more appropriate time following the OLO report
- and in conjunction with the MFP Committee, I would withdraw the amendment and
- therefore ask for a vote on the resolution as it stands.

- 41 Council President Praisner.
- Thank you Councilmember Berliner and let me echo what I know all of my colleagues
- believe which is that you've approached this issue in a very thoughtful way and helped
- 44 to, I hope, inform everyone in the community whether, whatever side one may have



1 been on in the beginning or have now at this point, that this is a very complicated issue 2 and needs to be looked at in, with, from folks perspectives with the responsibility of the 3 Council and your suggestions for further work are well intentioned and are appropriate 4 and will have follow up. So, the resolution to reject the Rollingwood Village incorporation 5 request is before us. All in favor of adoption of the resolution? That is unanimous, no? Valerie are you voting no? Those opposed? Those opposed, one. Okay so the vote is 8-6 7 1. We will now move to a briefing Overview of the Gang and Youth Violence Prevention 8 Initiative and I would ask Chief Manger and the department heads who are here joining 9 him, Uma and Gabe and anyone else that you've identified come forward. Let me just 10 make a couple of comments before we begin and then after the presentation, I will turn it over to Councilmember Elrich. The document before us, or the request from the 11 12 Council was associated with the memo that Councilmember Elrich and I sent. 13 Councilmember Elrich serving as lead Councilmember for juvenile issues in the Public 14 Safety Committee and in the context of trying to get a status report on what has been referred to in the past as the Gang Initiatives in Montgomery County, the packet from 15 16 staff highlights the background on this and notes that this goes back as far as 2004 when then County Executive Duncan and Prince George's County Executive Johnson 17 established this joint taskforce. In that context of the joint taskforce, the Council 18 19 received presentations on several occasions related to the Gang Initiatives and also 20 reviewed those in the context of the budget and the Council's consideration on the operating budget. With a change in administration, and from what I think we will hear, a 21 22 change in focus, the questions for the Council are the status of those Initiatives, the 23 direction of those Initiatives the outcomes and expectations that the Council can see. 24 Let me also note because the Board of Education is meeting at this moment, that 25 unfortunately, because we rescheduled the meeting at this time, members of the Board of Education are not able to join us because of their monthly all day Tuesday meeting 26 27 schedule as well. But the Board and the Council did have a meeting in the fall, well I guess it was December, January time period, I can't remember, to discuss the 28 29 Collaboration Council's work on the Out-Of-School, After-School Initiatives which are an 30 issue that this Council has taken the lead on from a standpoint of expanding Rec Extra 31 and from a standpoint of expanding and increasing the Sports Academies at the high school level. So, from an Out-Of-School, After-School Initiative, I feel very strongly, that 32 33 that is a Council Initiative that we are going to continue to monitor with the input of the Board of Education as well. We have the Collaboration Council's analysis of the efforts 34 35 so far and we will be scheduling a PHED Committee discussion of that. I've already talked to Councilmember Elrich about asking him to help with shaping that conversation 36 37 within the PHED Committee. He's well situated being in the Public Safety Committee 38 and in the PHED Committee to help look at the coordination and collaboration that hopefully will continue to improve. I know Whitney, you're sitting at that table and that 39 40 may complicate the ability of other staff members from the Executive Branch so if you 41 mind moving over there and Kate, if you would join us at the table as well. And Kathy, if you're available to stand nearby as well I want to be able to have the Collaboration 42 43 Council answer any questions too. I'm going to turn it over to Tom Manger, Chief of



Police and ask everyone in the line to introduce themselves first and then Tom, I gather you're going to take the lead today so you can begin after everyone's been introduced.

3

- 4 Chief Tom Manger,
- 5 Chief Tom Manger, Montgomery County Police.

6

- 7 Gabriel Albornoz,
- 8 Gabe Albornoz, Director of Department of Recreation.

9

- 10 Uma Ahluwalia,
- 11 Uma Ahluwalia, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services.

12

- 13 Kate Garvey,
- 14 Kate Garvey, Chief of Children, Youth and Family Services.

15

- 16 Stephen Bedford,
- 17 Steve Bedford, Chief School Performance Officer in Montgomery County Public
- 18 Schools.

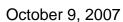
19

- 20 Ed Piesen.
- 21 Ed Piesen, OMB.

22

- 23 Council President Praisner,
- 24 Okay.

- 26 Chief Tom Manger,
- 27 Good morning, I'm pleased to give you, or begin the overview of our current effort of
- 28 positive youth development. I want to talk about how the Gang Prevention Taskforce,
- Bi-County Gang Prevention Taskforce that was began three and a half years ago has
- transitioned into our current effort today. As you recall, back in September of 2004, the
- 31 Bi-County Gang Prevention Taskforce brought forth 80 recommendations to address
- the gang problem in Montgomery County as well as Prince George's County. A steering
- group, a steering committee came together and formed three groups to implement
- these 80 plus recommendations. Over the next two years, many of those
- 35 recommendations were implemented. The Youth Opportunity Center was probably the
- largest issue or recommendation that was implemented, centralized gang unit for the
- Police Department, the creation of a Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator, a gang tip
- line and a host of other recommendations were implemented by one of three task
- 39 groups that were put together to implement these recommendations. Two out of the
- 40 three task groups actually came to the steering committee and said, we've completed as
- much of our work as we're going to be able to do. Without either additional funding or
- other things, their work was basically done. The final group, the Community Action Task
 Group which had the bulk of the recommendations, the ones that had to do with
- 44 creating programs outside of the government, out in the community still had additional





1 work that they wanted to do and they have actually remained active through this month. 2 When the new County Executive was elected, he took a look at what had been done 3 and took a look at a number of other factors and decided to change, not to discard what 4 had already been done, but to move forward in a little bit different direction and probably 5 the most important change for everyone to be aware of is that we were broadening the approach from gang prevention to positive youth development. Gang prevention is a 6 7 part of that, is a subset of that positive youth development but the positive youth 8 development actually would be something that hopefully will benefit kids throughout our 9 community many of whom might not be, have any risk of joining a gang, but have other 10 issues that they need to deal with in order to make sure that they develop in a healthy manner. So, that was the biggest change in the approach that the new County 11 12 Executive brought. One of the other issues that Mr. Leggett looked at was the fact that 13 gang crime seemed to be focused in three primary areas in the County. It was in Germantown, it was in our Wheaton District and it was in Silver Spring. And so what he 14 decided to do was to look at three specific neighborhoods that had a fair amount of 15 16 gang related crime, youth crime that was going on and target those areas with programs and Initiatives to address the positive youth development for the kids living in those 17 areas. And so, what, we put together a leadership team of government representatives. 18 19 Myself, Gabe and Uma are chairing this leadership team, but it includes folks from the 20 County Executive's Community Advisory Groups, key members of the previous gang 21 prevention task force. We have included those folks that have wanted to stay involved 22 and so we think that it's a fairly representative group from the government, from the 23 community that has the right diversity to hopefully move this initiative forward in the best 24 way possible. So we've got the right people as part of the leadership team. We've 25 chosen the three neighborhoods that we want to focus on. They are the Long Branch neighborhood in Silver Spring, the Bel Pre Road Corridor in the Aspen Hill area and 26 27 Gunner's Branch in Germantown. So what we've done is we've asked the Regional Service Directors from those areas to put together the community based collaboratives 28 29 from their respective neighborhoods where they're going to bring together members of 30 the community and basically tailor initiatives for their community. I mean one of the 31 things that we all believe is that one size does not fit all. Depending on what issues 32 we're dealing with in a particular neighborhood, depending on the kids we're trying to, 33 that seem to need the positive youth development, we need to tailor our initiatives to 34 those particular communities and individuals. So the Regional Services Directors are 35 pulling together folks from the community to move forward in these three 36 neighborhoods. And they too have community representation help them through this 37 effort. Each community is going to focus on three overarching goals, to increase youth 38 access to out-of-school time and youth employment activities with caring competent adults, increase the quality of activities so that youth will participate and positive impacts 39 40 on youth will occur and create efficient local collaborations that will have ownership for 41 positive youth opportunities through connecting current resources and identifying and acting on needed policy changes and resource changes and expansion. We've given 42 43 you a fairly lengthy list of programs that are already in place and already in the FY08 44 budget and my colleagues can talk a little bit more in detail about those but I'll finish the



beginning of this presentation by just reiterating that our sense is that one size does not fit all. This, these initiatives need to be programmed or need to be targeted toward girls as well as boys. We are targeting, while we've not set age parameters, we're generally targeting kids under the age of 18. And it's not to say that we won't have a program that might help someone who is eight or nine years old, but we're actually concentrating on the kids in middle school and high school. So, you know the 12 to 17 range is generally what we're targeting although you know, that's not set in stone. I think it's important to understand that we're going to hold onto what was good about the previous Gang Prevention Initiative. I think that expanding the focus to positive youth development is a step forward. I think targeting specific neighborhoods is going to I think give us a real clear picture of what kinds of things may be well suited to try in other neighborhoods if they are successful. So I'm very excited about this approach and we've got a lot of community representation, community support. And with that, I will let my colleagues talk a little about some of the specific initiatives that we're looking at.

14 15 16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

24 25

2627

28 29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39 40

41

42

43

44

1

2

3

4

5

6 7

8

9

10

11 12

13

Gabriel Albornoz,

Good morning everybody, I'm going to talk specifically about the Department of Recreation's role in the positive youth development component. Talk about what specifically was funded out of this initiative in the '08 budget and then a little bit of an update on where we stand on those initiatives and then lastly, talk about what our role is in the community based collaborations and what we propose and will be doing as a result of those. I'll start with the funding that was allocated specifically to the Department of Recreation. We received funding to both annualize and continue our Sports Academies' programs in five local high schools and we also received funding to implement a new Sports Academy in the Up County region. We have chose Seneca Valley for a variety of reasons and have met with the principal several times and she's very excited about us coming on board so we're excited about that partnership and will be launching programs there in January as the program was funded for half the year. But we've been very much in the development stages and have been meeting with a lot of people to hit the ground running in January. Lastly, we received resources to make immediate enhancements and improvements to our neighborhood recreation centers. Most of these facilities as all of you know very well by now are dated. Several of them were never intended to be recreation centers but are very heavily used and also serve high needs communities. So, the resources there will go towards immediate improvements such as enhancing the technology that's available through computer labs as well as gym floors, adding additional weight room equipment. But I want to note that we are working actively with those communities to make sure that we're going to provide what they would like to see within those facilities. As far as the Department of Recreation's specific role in the positive youth development piece, the team that we have designated right now within the Department is the Teen Team that carries out both the Sports Academy and the Rec Extra program and carries out a lot of our initiatives that are in the schools. But it's important to note that as a Department, I think we provide a lot in the way of Out -Of-School Time programs and I think in coming in that I saw right off the bat that we could do a little bit better job of leveraging existing





1 resources within the Department to maximize our efforts in programming so that we can round out and create more of a continuum of programs. So for example, our Teen Team 2 3 partnered with our aquatics team this summer to provide some pool parties on Friday 4 evenings which were very well attended. The party that we had at MLK had over 500 5 kids participate, well supervised, great event and those kind of internal partnerships I think can maximize our reach and get to more kids. In addition to that, we also want to 6 7 partner with outside community based organizations and also Departments, libraries, 8 HHS, law enforcement, so that again, we can round out services and ultimately create 9 more of a continuum of programs, we're going to focus on what we do well, which is 10 obviously offering recreation based activities but I want to partner with great 11 organizations out there to round out services through case management, Social 12 Services and the like. Again, lastly, the continuum, we're also going to be taking a very 13 active role and have taken a very active role in the community based collaboratives. We 14 hosted the most recent one that was at our Long Branch Community Center and we are 15 sending representatives from the corresponding recreation centers as well as 16 representatives from our Sports Academies and our Rec Extra programs as well as the Regional Manager from the Recreation Department that covers that area. So we are 17 very much well represented at those meetings and the purpose of that is for us to be 18 19 able to provide support and take the lead if appropriate on carrying out some Initiatives but more than anything just making sure that there isn't a duplication of services so that 20 21 we can all be on the same page. And that is essentially the Department's role in this 22 initiative.

23 24

25

2627

28

29 30

31

32

33

34 35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42 43

44

Uma Ahluwalia.

Good morning everyone, thank you so much for this opportunity to share both our progress and our plans for the future in serving the youth of the County. As both the Chief and Gabe have outlined, we've continued our multifaceted approach to serving youth in order to serve the full spectrum of the youth. These include youth who are simply by virtue of being youth in our communities need services as well as those who are actually engaged in gang activity. Our prevention efforts focus on community based solutions that are largely carried out by our nonprofit partners and services include after school programs, mentoring, tutoring and leadership development. When we're talking about older youth today, we firmly believe that strong early childhood in elementary and middle school based programs like Head Start, Learning Party, Linkages to Learning programs are truly preventive in nature and these programs provide the foundation for children in support with the parents as they navigate both the educational and social systems in our County. We have included a listing of some of our youth focused programs and our expected outcomes for these programs to demonstrate the types of services that are being carried out and the locations and what our expectations are for effectiveness. Many of these programs received their funding through the Council grants process and the outcomes range from improved academic performance to reduced sexually risky behavior. Through our intervention efforts we have been able to truly have an impact on youth who've been engaged in gang activity and violence and through our Youth Opportunity Center, and our Street Outreach Network and the great



1 work of Luis Cardona, and tremendous involvement by Kate Garvey, we've been able to 2 reach the youth who need intervention. The Youth Opportunity Center has served more 3 than 350 youth and has seen improvements in many facets of their lives. The Street 4 Outreach Network is building relationships with youth across the County and working to 5 engage the youth in positive activities and services. About 25% of the referrals to the Street Outreach Network are for females. The number has been recently increasing due 6 7 to improved partnerships with the MCPS – personnel workers and their confidence to 8 refer clients to the Street Outreach Network. In addition the CYOC client participation 9 also increased from 20% to 30% this year and most of those participants are middle 10 school girls and 9th and 10th graders in high school. In addition most of the parents served at the CYOC are single mothers between 30 and 45 years of age. Our Youth 11 12 Violence Prevention Coordinator also continues to work in partnership with 13 organizations and partners across our County and the region to forge collaborative 14 solutions to stem youth violence and gang activity. We are pleased to note that during 15 our Department of Justice Grant site visit last week, we were informed that we would be 16 recommended as a best practices site. This grant includes our prevention, intervention and suppression work as well as our partnership with Prince George's County. I also 17 want to share with you, we had some conversations with the secretary for the 18 19 Department of Juvenile Services in Maryland and the secretary is very interested in putting some additional focus on girls and using Montgomery County as a potential site 20 for those activities and we've been in conversations with them about multidimensional 21 22 treatment, foster care and bringing that intervention to the County. So, as you've heard 23 from all of us today our County's continued commitment to address the needs of our youth and maintaining public safety will result in creating opportunities for them to 24 25 succeed and excel. We're confident that this holistic approach will help us to ensure positive future for our youth. We thank you for your continued interest and I'm available 26 27 for questions --.

28

- 29 Chief Tom Manger,
- 30 Madam Chairman, if I could just touch on --.

31

- 32 Council President Praisner,
- 33 Sure, of course.

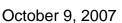
34

- 35 Chief Tom Manger,
- 36 -- group and suppression piece.

37

- 38 Council President Praisner,
- 39 Right.

- 41 Chief Tom Manger,
- 42 And then I think the three of us would be ready to answer questions. As I've said for the
- past three and a half years, the focus has to be on prevention. That must be where we
- focus. And in fact, even though the police are tasked with being the suppression piece





1 of this effort, the fact is we too are involved in prevention efforts. We, the EFOs do a lot of prevention work in the schools. We're working closely with the street outreach 2 3 workers from HHS. We make referrals to different groups, especially, we've got a real 4 strong relationship with Identity. We've done mediation between feuding groups and one 5 thing I'm very proud of is my gang detectives actually have sent out in the last six months 107 notification letters to parents and these letters say your child, we're not 6 7 saying your child is a gang member, but they were at this location, involved in this 8 activity where we know gang activity to be present. And we've sent out 107 of those 9 letters. And so my folks, even my gang detectives are heavily involved in gang activity. 10 To give you, we do now, as you all are aware, we have full-time centralized gang unit. 11 The State's Attorney has taken an all crimes approach. That is if a gang member 12 commits any crime, whether it's gang related or not, they have a special prosecutor 13 assigned to those cases and we have in fact started to see results in this region. MS 13 14 has had some setbacks. They're probably the most organized gang at least in 15 Montgomery County. And with some of the prosecutions that have taken place, we've 16 seen that less serious crime, serious gang related crime, serious gang related crime in Montgomery County has gone down. We still, most of the crime, most of the gang 17 related crime we have here is still not serious. It's vandalisms, it's minor assaults. That 18 19 has not changed. We are still seeing an increase in the numbers of kids who are 20 affiliating themselves with gangs but we are not seeing an increase in the number of 21 gangs. The gangs come and go but with the numbers still steadily rising of kids that are 22 affiliating themselves with gangs. But I guess the good news is that we're not seeing, in 23 fact we're seeing a slight decrease in the gang related crime, especially serious gang related crime is on the decline. So I think a lot of the suppression activities that we're, 24 25 we have put into place over the last couple of years are starting to show some results.

26 27

28

29

Council President Praisner,

Anyone else from the panel before I turn for the first questions or comments to Councilmember Elrich and there are other lights? Well, that's why I said, is there anyone else on the panel who would like to comment?

30 31 32

33

34

35

3637

38

39 40

41

42

43

44

Stephen Bedford,

Good morning, yes, I would like to comment. The move to positive youth development is a real strong supported change for Montgomery County Public Schools versus the prior title of this work. We really view in the school system that this positive youth development focus is what we're about, among other things. As we do our part to create a positive youth environment where we believe that we're creating a positive citizenry for Montgomery County in years beyond. So this really touches to things that we support. We understand the role the school system plays in positive youth development especially in the prevention arena. We believe that engagement of youth throughout all of the levels including going back to what Uma said about preschool and Head Start through graduation. This is about engagement. When we talk about engagement, it's engaging students in appropriate activities at school. It's engaging them in successful performance in a rigorous program and keeping them engaged throughout the school



1 time and the desire to remain engaged in after school hours that would want them to return. We feel that when we have a lack of engagement, we have other identifiers that 2 3 are playing with the student at that point in time that would make them become 4 disengaged. Some of them things that occur in the community, sometimes at home, 5 sometimes at school, but usually the lack of engagement is a manifestation of something else that we have an opportunity and a challenge to identify to support to get 6 7 other resources involved. We have about 137,000 plus students and we feel that all of 8 them are involved in this, but a certain number of students indeed do show the 9 manifestation of more at risk behaviors. We feel that we're in the opportunity arena to 10 identify what these identifiers are for students at risk and to provide them with supports 11 both in school within the system as well as working with our partners in County 12 government and other agencies that – basically need to support students. Eventually, 13 unfortunately, some students who are at risk, we're not able to reach, but the more we can identify early and be successful with we believe that we can make a difference. So 14 15 we're very excited about the shift to a positive youth development program.

16 17

Council President Praisner,

Anyone else? Kathy or Kate or anything else? No. Okay, then I will turn it over to Councilmember Elrich for the first series of questions or comments.

19 20 21

22

23

24 25

26

27

28 29

30

31

32

33

34

35

3637

38

39

40

41

42

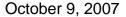
43

44

18

Councilmember Elrich,

First of all, I want to thank you all for coming here. What I really want to thank you for is for shifting the definition of this program from this kind of anti-gang issue to the focus on positive youth development. I think that's a really important step that's been taken here. I have questions and I don't expect the answers now, but I at least want to let you know what I'm thinking about. And to the extent that I'm, skeptical might be the wrong word, to the extent that I question the coordination, I recognize that there's no jurisdiction that's successfully tackled what we're trying to tackle. If there were we would already have the models out there and we would be saying we're doing what they've done in city X because it's effective and so the effort to coordinate and come up with a comprehensive program, is, I think is a very important effort. It doesn't have really great successful models to look at at this point and so I think patience and time is necessary to make things work. But I want to give you some of my general reactions to things. First, I think is important is engagement as preparation for the students. Before you see, before a student manifests something that's wrong, they've already got problems. And that there really needs to be a focus on academically preparing kids and making kids academically successful. I can't think of probably a more important indicator for future problems than lack of academic success. As a kid, it's probably the worst situation you can find yourself in, to feel lost in a classroom and be unable to compete's the wrong word, but certainly to participate at the same level as everybody else. And so I think that's really fundamental. I think targeting 12 to 17 year olds misses some of what people that have learned I think the hard way about shifting childhood development. When I was in grad school, doing my education degree, we all had to read Piaget and everybody was let kids form these views about the world between 12 and 13 and then you talk to teachers





1 who are in the classroom and you start talking to 9 and 10 year olds and it's like the kind 2 of things they wrote in the textbooks, that 12 and 13 year olds are supposed to be 3 saying, doing things that 9 and 10 year olds were saying. And young kids are making 4 the decisions about what they're going to do, how seriously they're going to take school, 5 whether this is something they're buying into or not at an earlier age. And so my concern is that when you deal with 12 and 17 year olds who are already, you've 6 7 identified as needing intervention that at that point, it requires an extraordinary 8 educational effort to close the gaps that have been developed. It's very difficult you 9 know, if a child doesn't have the foundation in reading by the time they are 8 or 9, 10 closing that gap when they are 12 to 17 is a major challenge. It's not you know, you 11 know this in the schools, it's not something we remediate very well, you know, in the 12 extra reading programs and even in high school, it's hard to close. It's late in the 13 developmental process for children. We just know now that this is a late intervention in 14 terms of how children are developing and ultimately requires a focus on treating the problem rather than preventing the problem. And I don't want us always to be in the 15 16 situation of developing great treatment programs, or the best treatment programs possible when what I really would like to do is to stop sending you children who need to 17 be treated. That's seems to me the most important goal of a successful program is 18 19 really reducing who you treat, not just being able to say I treated X percentage of the 20 population successfully. So it's really important to me that we, that an important focus is 21 dealing with the kids before they need treatment. And I guess along that end I, and 22 again, this is one of the questions I don't have for right now, or don't need an answer 23 right now is, what's the balance of investment in early childhood and what you talked 24 about versus the balance of investment in the later category? How are we parsing out 25 our investment dollars into these different groups of children? The other questions that 26 occurred to me are of my student level questions and my global questions. First place, 27 what are we doing and why do we do it? What programs do we have and why are the programs that we have, the ones that we've selected? You know, I know that I can talk 28 29 to somebody that says there's a program at this recreation center, it's this program. And 30 you go to another rec center and it's a different program. But both of them are 31 purporting to treat or deal with the same kinds of issues. So, are both of them equally 32 effective? Is one more effective than the other? How do we decide what we're going to 33 provide kids? How do we decide who gets served and more importantly, how do we 34 direct kids into service? How do we, I don't think we're at the point now where we have 35 got this, what I would like to see is, seamless link from school to after school. Where 36 the, where I think what happens now is, we rely on a kid to walk into the right building, 37 to sign up for the right program with their parents' encouragement and then to show up. 38 And that's awful voluntary and it's somewhat accidental and it's not enough to say we 39 have programs available, a program in a rec center or a program in a school. The real 40 challenge is how do you get the kid into the right program and then ensure that they 41 stay in that right program and get the services they need. So, I would hope that the 42 model would involve not just that the County has programs in all these different facilities 43 but that the children are being directed to the programs that they need. And it's, you 44 know, it's an extension of what's best for the individual and how do we measure what's



1 effective? You know, is effective merely in mere attendance? Is effectiveness, you know 2 is it, or is it changes in academic performance and other things? And I was very 3 concerned when I saw the first report on the Rec Programs After-School. They didn't 4 seem particularly encouraging in the numbers they had about you now, attitude towards 5 school, the number of times kids were involved with administration that even by my measures of effectiveness, they didn't look very effective, at least not in the first report. 6 7 So I'm very concerned that whatever we do, that we do it effectively. In a more global 8 way, I mean I would still like to have a picture and we talked about this in fairness earlier 9 about what we do and where. And I realize it's going to take some time to do it. But we 10 ought to know in every part of the County what program is in what school and in what recreation center. I should be able to go and I should say in the Northwood cluster or 11 12 the consortium there or if I'm up in Gaithersburg, what programs are in the Gaithersburg 13 area? And who's in those programs? And how do they get in those programs? And why are those programs there? And that should be everybody's programs. It should be what 14 15 the Rec Department does, what the school system does and what our nonprofit partners 16 do. And I should be able to then look at that list and ask questions about why is this here and why isn't it there? How did you make these decisions? What's the basis for 17 that kind of decision making? That's I guess sort of the general direction I want to go 18 19 and I understand this is the beginning of the process. And I'm happy that we're 20 beginning the process but I think there are a lot of, before we can do this effectively, we 21 need more information and you know. I would encourage people to think about how to 22 create the kind of seamless integration. I've asked, some of you have been here when 23 the juvenile justice centers have been here and one of the questions I've asked is can we look at the school records of kids who are in academic trouble or kids who are in 24 25 trouble and find out where the wheels came off? This is the kind of integration that I'd 26 like to see at some point. So that's where I would like to go.

27 28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

3637

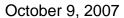
Council President Praisner.

If I can get back just very briefly. I think the questions that we've asked and the work that's being done by the Collaboration Council, relative to the outcomes with the Sports Academy and the Rec Extra are the beginning of those things that Councilmember Elrich has asked about. But it's pretty much anecdotal and the surveys have seen not a strong relationship or outcome base from a standpoint of continuity of participation and that leads to, I think, if I can, a question about MCPS' participation from a standpoint of providing data on the students in more than just an anecdotal, do you feel better about yourself kind of question, but also information about success in school and discipline issues that might lead us to ask the question about encouraging participation, but also what's the outcome of those efforts. Councilmember Trachtenberg.

38 39 40

Councilmember Trachtenberg,

Oh okay. Thank you Madam President. I spent a great deal of time reading the report, the packet that was provided to us and it's very clear, that we're really putting a good effort forward to try to work with families. The issue of coordination certainly came up though, in my review of the material. I mean I think that that is something that we're still





1 going to have to perfect over time. Again I'm, I want to make sure that I'm saying that 2 and it's not heard as a criticism. But I see that as really the biggest challenge in what 3 we're doing and what really interests me in the material that I read was what was talked 4 about in terms of behavioral health interventions. And that wouldn't come as a surprise 5 to any of you given my background. But you know, all of the literature, all of the studies that have been done, whether they're anecdotal, whether we're talking at real data, if 6 7 children have an early involvement in delinquency and alcohol and drug use and mental 8 health problems, those are truly indicators for potential risk. Not just around gangs but 9 just around negative behavior and we get into the issues of poverty and broken homes 10 and house violence, home violence and those are again indicators for children. And so 11 you know, I wanted to stress the fact that I really thought we needed to place much 12 more of an emphasis on screening and services for children under the age of 12 13 because again, most of what's been described in this packet is really around children between 12 and 18. And yes, that's a good time to be working with them and their 14 15 families but I'm of the mindset that there's an awful lot of prevention that can be done 16 with younger children and their families and you know, that really goes to my belief that if all we did was invest more fully in Linkages to Learning, we'd be making a dent in 17 some of the challenges that we face in working with children. So I really wanted to put 18 19 that out there and wanted to ask a specific question about the Crossroads Youth 20 Opportunity Center and if we could have a conversation about what's actually available 21 through that center in the way of services. Because I've heard different things and I 22 want to make sure that I understand A, what's available and B, what's the, just off the 23 cuff, the amount of children that are actually being serviced through that program.

2425

26

27

28 29

30

31

32

33

34

35

3637

38

39

40

41

Kate Garvey,

The Youth Opportunity Center is operated, it's a collaborative among Identity Pride Youth Services, the Public Defender's Office of Prince George's County and some of their partner organizations. We have served about 366 youth at that site. What they go through, any person who comes through will go through a screening with the staff to identify what the issues are. Intensive case management and relationship building and connection with mental health services. We do have to refer out for substance abuse services at this time. Legal services, and that's both educational advocacy, immigration status support, criminal charges, so there's that support that's provided there. A lot of positive youth development work that's focused on cultural supports, both through pride and identity, tangible aid supports for families, and really I think, what we've seen, why we have been successful is that it's really a safe environment at the Youth Opportunity Center. We have had rival gang members together without incidents, or when there has been incident, it's been managed well. We see people keep coming back you know, acknowledging that they can get support there and can make the choice to leave the gang. Employment services is also another piece that's critical for us in education. We have got youth who have dropped out, so we have worked with them also on either acquiring the GED or looking at other vocational supports.

42 43 44

Councilmember Trachtenberg,



Well, in your remarks, you indicated that we saw or intervened with around 300, 350 children? Is that--.

3

- 4 Kate Garvey,
- 5 Yeah.

6

- 7 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
- 8 And I wanted to ask about the choice of location and whether or not we actually had any
- 9 thought about expanding the Opportunity Center in other locations because again, you
- know, some of the interaction that I've had with the community would suggest that they
- haven't been able to get in as quickly as they would like to, and I'm not sure if that's
- 12 true.

13

1.4

14 Kate Garvey,

- 15 I think lately, there was about a month and a half ago, the center said they needed to
- take a pause to assess their functioning and so there was a period of time where they
- were not taking new individuals in. That has since, that's stopped. But there was a
- period of time where they really were doing internal review, and sort of retreating
- 19 together to say are we being as effective as we need to be. So that may have been at
- the time. But to answer the first part of your question, we really truly feel that we, having
- Youth Opportunity Centers elsewhere would be important. Having youth travel from Up
- 22 County there is really not a feasible idea, though some do.

2324

- Councilmember Trachtenberg,
- 25 Right.

26

- 27 Kate Garvey,
- We had made requests in the federal earmark requests that came from here, for a site
- that we would want to have up County that did not materialize. But clearly we feel that
- 30 it's an effective strategy, and it's something that we would like to duplicate and we have
- 31 got to find alternative funding sources to do that.

32

- 33 Councilmember Trachtenberg.
- And what is the protocol in terms of a referral out for substance abuse? Again this is
- something that I've gotten different answers on and I wondered if I, if you could give me
- some information about how that really works and what are the options that are
- 37 available?

- 39 Kate Garvev.
- 40 It is both going through the two counties, again this is, the Youth Opportunity Center is
- 41 both counties and so we have had referrals through both County Departments. We did
- 42 have a period with Prince George's referrals where there was some difficulty because of
- 43 the personnel matter and the person responsible for shepherding through those
- referrals so if there were issues raised, I would acknowledge that they were valid. That



1 has since been dealt with. But it is again going through the respective County systems, 2 drug and alcohol systems for referral.

3 4

- Councilmember Trachtenberg,
- 5 Well, you know, I actually am focusing with these questions because it would seem to
- me that we still have a lot of investments that need to be made around the behavioral 6
- health services that we do provide to children and their families, and I am most aware of 7
- 8 the fact that we still don't have the treatment options available that need to be available
- 9 in the way of substance abuse. So I really see these as, I wouldn't say gaping holes
- 10 because I know we are making our best effort, but I definitely see them as areas where
- 11 additional investments need to be made. And you know, this I believe is a good
- opportunity also to raise the relationship with MCPS and what the coordination is with 12
- 13 the school around this, and I know no one is here this morning to talk with us from
- MCPS because of the, Steve's here, excuse me, I'm sorry, well, from the Board itself, 14
- 15 that's what I was thinking of. And I wondered if you wanted to comment on the role that
- 16 MCPS plays around screening and referral.

17

- 18 Stephen Bedford,
- 19 Well that's, some of the comments I made earlier, the fact that we spend six, seven 20 hours with 137,000 students every day.

21

- 22 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
- 23 Right.

24

- 25 Stephen Bedford.
- 26 And I think that we have a unique opportunity to see the early signs. And I appreciate
- 27 Councilmember Elrich's comments about that we need to be looking for the signs that
- are prior to the manifestation of the actual behavior. And that's, I'm sure you understand 28
- 29 that's a great challenge because you're looking for things that may be very discrete and
- 30
- not evident to be there to recommend, but that's certainly some of what we need to do 31 to develop our staff, not only in their ability to deliver an academic program, but look for
- 32 the signs that may lead to something. We have talked about identifiers that certainly
- 33 look at potential at risk children who we know are victims of domestic violence or
- 34 physical abuse or sexual abuse or mental abuse or hunger. Those things can all lead to
- 35 problems further down the road that we have got to be sensitive to, and that once that's
- identified, we don't want to label kids, but we want to make sure that somebody with 36
- 37 greater professional support can indeed intervene and help. And that's where we think
- 38 our responsibility really is, to help with other agencies and get in the right students in the
- 39 right program to support them.

- 41 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
- Well actually you know, what is the existing protocol around that right now in terms of 42
- 43 school function? That's really what I'd like to talk a little bit about because I get the
- 44 sense that that's changed over the years.



Stephen Bedford,
Changed?
Councilmember Trachtenberg,
Well, you know.

Stephen Bedford,

Let me tell you what I believe is occurring.

Councilmember Trachtenberg,

12 Okay. Okay.

Stephen Bedford,

I really can't, I don't know what the change would be. A number of different staff members come in contact with children every day from a classroom teacher to paraprofessionals to lunchroom assistants to playground aides to bus drivers, and we would like to sensitize all of them to looking for signs that may indicate. There is an expectation then that once they are aware, they bring that to the administration, the school or the school counselor, to make sure that they are expressing what they have seen and observed. Not that they just pass it on, but this develops into a consultation at that point in time. Are there other factors that may be inhibiting it? We really expect our counselors and administrators to take the initiative then to look beyond just what's reported there to bring that forth. And if it's something that we can provide in school, school counseling, collaborative action process, things that we actually control in-house, then we expect a referral to be made there. But if things that we believe other agencies can help us with, we certainly would like to engage other folks in those conversations.

Councilmember Trachtenberg,

Right. And you know, that was really the point that I wanted to make, which is I'm hopeful that in the future we're able to develop a more collaborative approach because it sounds to me like we have made some changes in the right direction, but we're still not at the point where we're having regular dialogue between MCPS and some of the other agencies, and I'm thinking specifically about Health and Human Services. Again, I know that's being addressed but I want to underscore the significance of that and the fact that I really see that as something that we have to improve.

Council President Praisner,

39 Council --.

41 Kate Garvey,

42 Can I just add?

Council President Praisner,



1 Yes.

2 3

Kate Garvey,

I left out a key partner out of the Youth Opportunity Center, it's killing me. The YMCA is a major partner and contributor to that. So I just, I cannot leave that.

Council President Praisner,

[Laughter]. Thank you. Councilmember Berliner.

Councilmember Berliner,

Thank you Council President. I just have a quick question for Gabe if I could. I was struck by your observation that you had incredible success at a swim party with teens, and I have shared with you before my sense that our community not unlike many communities has very few outlets for teens, particularly in the evenings. I have got a 16 year old boy and after the movies what does he do? And so my question to you is given your experience with respect to that, to what extent do you perceive part of your mission as having a more robust teen presence particularly in the evening, allowing these teens to go someplace, do things that are healthy as opposed to unhealthy things?

Gabriel Albornoz.

Well I couldn't agree more, first. We are, our Teen Team I think has done a really good job in collaborating with other community based organizations to carry out more programs and services. I know they recently partnered with a nonprofit organization to carry out some speak out sessions and some poetry slams in downtown Silver Spring that were in the evenings, and they are also offering additional opportunities in the evenings as well. But that's a direction that we clearly want to head in. We had a very successful indoor soccer tournament this past year in Long Branch where literally hundreds of kids participated again on Friday nights. It was almost like a midnight basketball but with soccer. So I recognize that there is that interest and specifically in the Leland Community Center, we have club Fridays which are targeted more towards younger youth, but I think that we can do a little better job there of reaching older youth.

Councilmember Berliner,

So I would appreciate that as the Council and as the Executive explores the Fillmore for example, one of the phenomenas that when we were in Ocean City for our NACO meeting and I took my boy down to Ocean City and there was a club that normally is a club that's open to over 21 crowd that closes for two weeks and just allows teens to go, 15 to 20 year olds, and it seems to me the Fillmore to the extent to which we have a community slot available, that would be a perfect location for teen events like that, dancing, a place where kids can go and really have fun in a controlled environment. So I urge you in your internal considerations of the opportunities that the Fillmore may represent to pursue that option as well.

Gabriel Albornoz,



1 I had the same thought when I read the article. It's a great idea.

2 3

42

43

44

Council President Praisner,

4 Councilmember Ervin. 5

Councilmember Ervin,

6 Thank you all for coming. I'm really encouraged by what I'm hearing so far. I'm sort of a 7 8 cynic a lot of times about throwing money at programs to try to fix a problem that is 9 huge. And so I'm going to use my cynical self right now to respond to some things that I 10 heard the school system talk about in terms of signs. I mean who are the at risk youth that we're talking about. We all know who they are. And there are all kinds of indicators 11 12 that tell us who these kids are that we are all talking about. One of the ways that the 13 school system I think can share data and concrete facts to the general public by looking at some of these indicators, start with this whole issue of disproportionality. 14 15 Disproportionate numbers of African American students and Latino students end up in 16 Special Ed, they have discipline problems, their families live in poverty. We know who these folks are. And so let's guit beating around the bush about who are the at risk 17 youth that these programs are designed to focus on. You know, I'm very interested in 18 19 middle school children, and when kids leave 8th grade and go into 9th grade and their 20 freshman year, the school system is able to look at their grade point averages, and we 21 know that in many of the high schools in my district in the down County, 9th graders are 22 academically ineligible in huge numbers, so what are we doing about that? Instead of 23 focusing on the issue that we all know a lot of those kids are going to end up out of 24 school at some point. So, it's no surprise to me when I look at these numbers, if I'm 25 looking at Einstein High School or Blair High School or Kennedy High School or Northwood High School and I see an academic ineligibility problem, who is connecting 26 27 those dots up? Who from the school system, whether it be a pupil personnel worker, again, this costs money. I mean, I sat on the Board of Education, and the Board did not 28 29 want to move forward any programs to pay for the kind of personnel that is required to 30 connect the dots from the school system to the Police Department, from the school 31 system to Recreation, from the school system to HHS. So, this project that you're 32 undertaking sounds remarkably like the Kennedy Cluster Project, in terms of looking at 33 specific geographic areas in the County and using the resources that we all have 34 available to us including the information that we have that needs to be shared among all 35 Departments at the County. So it seems to me that we're talking in these circles. We are used to throwing money at problems but not really solving the problem. I believe that the 36 37 school system is the cornerstone here. And until we get ourselves to a place where this 38 kind of data is being shared and that we're connecting these dots, our taxpayer dollars 39 are not going to be put to very good use. And so I have to just throw that out there 40 because I heard my colleague, Mr. Elrich say just a little while ago how important early 41 childhood programs are. I want to be on record with my colleagues here that although

the Council did fund and is supporting an early childhood pilot project initiative, that we

really need to do a lot more in that area because we know that's where our money will

be best spent. And in the meantime, there are a couple of questions that I would like to



- throw out there, and one has to do with the HHS Youth Violence Prevention
- 2 Coordinator, Luis Cardona. I have had several conversations with police officers in my
- district who say they won't work with Mr. Cardona. I'm wondering if we already have an
- 4 issue where the police are not working with HHS' Youth Violence Prevention
- 5 Coordinator, and we are all here sitting at the table saying, oh, let's hold hands and sing
- 6 tra-la-la, we are all going to work together when, in fact, at the end of the day, this is not
- 7 happening. We have got a whole lot of disconnects here that effect our ability to take
- 8 care of the youth that are falling through the cracks. So I see Luis is sitting in the
- 9 audience, and I very much appreciate the work that he has been doing on behalf of our
- 10 youth that are involved in gangs, but I also know that there are some problems, maybe
- 11 I'm misconstruing this, with the Police Department working with Mr. Cardona. And my
- other issue has to do with I heard early on some talk about community based
- collaboration which has to do with the Regional Services Centers. I represent the Long
- Branch neighborhood. I'm not aware of any of these efforts going on. Again, where's the
- 15 connection? So, I've said a lot, but I really want to speak to this issue of the police. And I
- know that the school system has a lot of challenges, but I really do believe at the end of
- the day, if we don't start where kids are, and you all are the first persons to see when
- kids stop going to school, you know there are a lot of kids that just drop out, what
- happens to them? They end up under the care and the supervision of some of the
- 20 programs that you just told us about. So I'll stop there.

21 22

- Council President Praisner,
- Would anyone like to comment? I do have a couple of other Councilmembers, too so we want to --.

- 26 Chief Tom Manger,
- 27 I think that the relationship between the Street Outreach workers, Luis and the Police
- 28 Department is critical. We know that there have been some bumps in the road. There
- were particular instances, particular cases where my staff didn't particularly think it was
- handled the way it should have been by Luis and his folks, but we talked about those. I
- mean we talked about it afterward, we talked about the issue. And I think there is going
- to, there has to continue to be that dialogue between my folks and the HHS staff
- because we are working together. And I will tell you that overall, the relationship is
- working. Are there individuals who, you know, have bad experiences and just sort of say
- fine, I'm not working together? I guess, you know, there may be some individuals like
- that. But my gang detectives are still maintaining a good dialogue with the Street
- Outreach workers. It worked very well at the Montgomery County Fair recently. It
- worked exactly like we, you would hope it would work. But it's a relationship that has to
- 39 continue, we have to continue to pay attention to because it could very easily be one
- 40 where they sort of go off in different directions. I don't think that's happened but have
- 41 there been some times when the police may have seen things differently than the HHS
- workers and wanted to handle a specific case or specific investigation differently? Yes,
- that's natural. Those things are going to happen. But the dialogue needs to continue.
- 44 And I will tell you that Uma and I both are doing everything we can to make sure that



dialogue continues, that we address the bumps in the road and I think it's working a lot more than it's not working.

Council President Praisner, Councilmember Leventhal.

Councilmember Leventhal,

Very quickly, we're going to talk in a couple of days about the Council's grant process for '09 and we got a lot of feedback, every year we get a lot of feedback about how to make the grants process better. One of the things that had been strongly recommended to us was that we ought to identify priorities, those things that the Council thinks are especially important in a given year and in a given funding cycle, and my own view and what I'll be discussing at the joint committee meeting in a couple of days, several of you will be there, several of you won't, is that after school programs ought to be probably our highest priority in the coming grant cycle. That doesn't mean we would only make, and of course the Council may not agree with me, but it doesn't mean that if we agree that that were a high priority, it wouldn't mean 100% of dollars would only be allocated to after school programs, but I heard from the community that there was a desire for the Council to give some guidance on priorities. And my own sense is because of the variety of applications not only to violence suppression, that after school priorities ought to rate very, very high for us as we look at supporting nonprofits.

Council President Praisner,

I just have a couple of comments. I appreciate the fact that you all identified the challenges associated with the stovepipes we call individual departments and functions and acknowledge them upright and forthright and respond when the Councilmembers, both Councilmember Trachtenberg and Councilmember Ervin identified issues in different programs or in different areas or in different situations where issues have arisen. I think it's very healthy that we have that conversation about the complexities and the challenges of the task that we're undertaking. And I agree with my colleagues that the framework in a positive way and at an early intervention prevention format or focus is one that makes great sense. I also agree with Councilmember Ervin that there are two places where two entities, institutions that can see an issue or a challenge right away, and that's the school system and the Police Department. And if those dots aren't connected as Valerie indicated or if there isn't any forthright mechanism for communication respecting confidentiality and rules, but if there isn't a mechanism for connecting those dots or alerting the people to the issues, then we will be doing an intervention rather than a prevention kind of process. With that in mind, a couple of the concerns that I have is in the data and the data collection and the sharing of information. And also a concern about the outreach within the community because it all relates together. We spend significant amounts of money, as I think again Councilmember Ervin indicated on a variety of programs, but I'm not clear that we all know and have mapped those programs that exist before we encourage the community to come forward in these community meetings and have them tell us what you need.



1 Because if you don't have the information about what exists, you can continue asking for something that already exists. And you can perhaps duplicate what is already 2 3 available in the community that folks might not be aware of. So a critical piece of any of 4 the outreach is information, and a critical piece of the information is a clear method of 5 both collecting it and presenting it. And with that in mind, I have some concerns about the lists that were presented to us identified as after school programs. Under the circle 6 7 84 and 85, Sharp Street is identified as an after school program. It's not. Never has 8 been. It's a, it may last longer than the time period of school, but it's an in-school 9 program for students who were suspended or at risk of being suspended. So it's not 10 after school per se.

11 12

Kate Garvey,

That was clearly an error.

13 14 15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

24 25

2627

28

29 30

31

32

33

34

35

3637

38

39 40

41

42 43

44

Council President Praisner,

The George B. Thomas Academy on circle 84 and the money that's associated with that, yes, there's a piece of the academies that are associated with the academy programs. But the George B. Thomas Academy primarily is a Saturday program. It's not, it's an out-of-school program, but it's not an after school program. And as I recall. the M-CAP Program as it originally evolved was not an after school program, and it's listed somewhere in this list as an after school program. So what I'm concerned about is that we are clear about what we're doing. It may not be everything that is going on, but what falls into the category of this initiative? What does not? How much money is it is something that the Council will want to track. But the second piece that the Council is very, very committed to is outcomes. And if we're not clear about what it is we're doing that is part of what we're measuring and evaluating, then we're going to keep spending as I think as Councilmember Ervin indicated money and not know if we're successful and what it is. And how can we connect the dots to inform the agencies about their availability of these programs? How can we tell the community what gaps are, ask the community what the gaps are if we don't tell them what already exists? How can we get feedback from them about the effectiveness of those programs? And before we put more money in grants for after school, and I appreciate Councilmember Leventhal's priority, I happen to agree with it, but where is the gap? It would be better it seems to me if we said to community groups, you want after school programming, this is what we have in the community here now. Is it working or not from your perspective? What else do you think we need? Or can you join this program and make it even stronger rather than creating your own separate one? That takes some discipline, some rigor, some data and some communication. And so I would hope in the outreach to the community, we're not just asking them open ended questions, but we have a very specific set of criteria and evaluation and interaction that empowers them but also educates them before they start. With that in mind, I think we have some very interesting information from the Rec Extra and the Sports Academy about the lack of rigor as far as participation, participation commitments. What I like about the Sharp Street Program is there's a contract, so to speak. I think the Academies and the Rec Extra programs may



- 1 require some kind of commitment as well. Why shouldn't we ask youth for something in
- the expectation side of things? Maybe there are referrals where folks need to be
- 3 referred, and you can cajole, but maybe there needs to be more rigor from a standpoint
- 4 of what your expectation is of what participation means, and then going back to
- 5 Councilmember Ervin's statement about tracking, tracking, tracking. With that in mind, I
- 6 have arranged with the National Association of Counties and ESRI, which is the folks
- who do GIS, to help us with an initiative they are anxious to work with five counties in
- 8 this country, and they have agreed to Montgomery County being one of them to help us
- 9 with the databases that we have to help map what exists and use that mapping and GIS
- capacity to help us get a better sense, whether it's the Kennedy area or the Northwood
- area or the Seneca Valley area or Long Branch or wherever, what exists and then to get
- 12 a better sense of, help us with the outcomes which we would provide the data for. I've
- generated some lights on my side, and I know it's 12:00, and I respect my colleagues.
- some of whom have to leave for Mr. Johnson's inauguration as President. So I'm going
- to let the Councilmembers who want to make comments outside of this conversation to
- go first because they do need to leave. And then I'm going to let Councilmember
- 17 Trachtenberg and Councilmember Elrich kind of wrap up this perspective.
- 18 Councilmember Berliner.

19

- 20 Councilmember Berliner.
- 21 Thank you Madam President. I believe on our public hearings this afternoon, we have
- 22 two items that we will be voting on. I believe it's item 3 and 4, excuse me, 8 and 9 and
- those are two supplemental appropriations, and I would appreciate the opportunity as
- being recorded in favor of those two items.

25

- 26 Council President Praisner,
- 27 Right. I think technically that people need to be present for me to have six votes for it to
- pass but being recorded is useful. Councilmember, Vice-President Knapp wanted to
- 29 comment.

30

- 31 Councilmember Knapp,
- 32 Thank you Madam President. I would just like to be recorded as two affirmative votes
- for the same items, 8 and 9.

34

- 35 Council President Praisner,
- 36 Councilmember Ervin.

37

- 38 Councilmember Ervin,
- Ditto for me. I would like to be recorded in support of items 8 and 9 and going back to
- 40 item 4, I would like to be recorded as a yes vote on the resolution to affirm rejection of
- 41 incorporation of Rollingwood.

42

43 Council President Praisner,



I can't lose any other Councilmembers this afternoon, so 6 others must remain for that vote this afternoon. With that mind, Councilmember Trachtenberg. I apologize for having to do Council business in the middle.

3 4 5

6 7

8

9

10

11 12

13

14 15

16

1

2

- Councilmember Trachtenberg,
- I want to express my gratitude again to all those that came this morning to have this conversation with us, and I think the Council President makes a fine point in that these are the kinds of conversations that we need to continue to have in order to come up with the best plan and to make the most impact in our community. And actually one of the things I was going to suggest to the Council President is beyond having the information around budget and program parameters and location, I'd really like to have more information about staffing. I think that is particularly critical when we're looking at grant applications because I know one of the questions that continuously came up last year was what does this mean in terms of investment? What are we paying for here? And that's not always clear to us. So bear with us, but we would really like to have more information in that regard. And again, I want to thank all of you for coming, and I'm sure

17 18

19 Council President Praisner.

we'll be talking to you again.

20 Councilmember Elrich.

21

- 22 Councilmember Elrich.
- 23 I just wanted to echo on something you said because I thought it was very important.

24

- 25 Council President Praisner.
- 26 Your mic is not on Marc. Thank you.

27

43

44

- 28
- Councilmember Elrich, 29 You were talking about the after school Rec programs, and I think that it's actually a 30 very good example of something which started out as the Rec was supposed to be the 31 hook to get the kids to do the academics, and it has morphed into giving kids the 32 opportunity to do academics who otherwise are academically ineligible. The purpose of 33 this program has flipped. And I think that you're pointing that out is really, really critical. 34 It is there for academics, and I say this because I want to dovetail to another thing the 35 school system which you did there, which is the elementary after school programs and extended day. I mean, I think we really have to think very clearly about what the 36 37 purpose is for extended day after school. Is it a program that runs from October to the 38 end of the MSAs in March, or is it a program to focus on boosting academic 39 achievement for the kids who need it most? And I say that because I know in a number 40 of schools the kids who are encouraged to participate the most are not the kids who 41 need it the most. They are the kids who are deemed to be, to have passed the last MSA 42 by one question or to be so close that if they just got a little of extra help they could pass

the MSAs with the extra help. Excluded from that are the kids that are deemed to be so

far behind that an after school program won't get them through the MSAs and so they



don't get the help the need and so the very kids who need the help the most don't get it because they're deemed to be not likely to pass the MSAs. Well if I'm going to invest in an after school program, the scores are nice, and you know, we don't want to get in too much trouble with the state, but at the end of the day, I would actually like to spend the money on the kids who are lagging furthest behind. And so I think it's critical to look at what we do with the after school programs. Should they run all year? We know, you know, that in September, you know who in your class from what happened last year is likely to need additional help after school. I recognize there's a money implication in this, but I think you know, this is the kind of discussion we need to have. Is what would it cost to do some of the things that we know we need to do? And I really think the after school programs have to be targeted to the kids who need the benefit the most. That's my pitch. And again, like Duchy said, thank you all for coming and participating in this.

Council President Praisner,

Really, I want to add again just finally the Council's appreciation for your response and participation. Congratulations to the Executive for focusing this in a way that raises the broader issues beyond the ones that, and expands on I think in a way the recommendations that came out of the taskforce before. But as I said, I think it's critical for us at this juncture to be clearer about what we're doing, why we're doing it, how we're going to measure what we're doing, and what specific programs, because there are a ton of them, fall in this category. With that said, the question or the direction to the community meetings and the role of the Regional Service Center Directors in that piece, the school system, Rec Department, Police, HHS, all of the Departments, these are critical questions of how we make this a clearer subject and also how we are clear in overcoming or identifying what it is we're focusing on and evaluating it. Kathy.

Kathv.

Our role in the community based collaboratives really is to support getting the as-is state first. What is available in that Germantown area, in the Wheaton area and the Long Branch area and the boundaries that have been established? So, Sherilyn Jenkins our GIS person is going to be involved in that process and Carol Walsh in helping support the Regional Service Center Directors in getting that as-is state, but it is very, very critical that we all agree on that definition of after school and what we're talking about so that we can talk about it so that we can understand each other. But that is the first step in this whole process. Two of the collaboratives have already met. There's one additional one that in a kickoff, is going to have its kickoff, and then the next step is for us to get that as-is state in those three communities.

Council President Praisner.

Well we need to know as that as-is is also not a concrete state and that it evolves and changes every year, and so the question of how frequently and how we continue to update that information and evaluate the success of those items, I think it's critical that we make those points. The folks from ESRI in the GIS Initiative are prepared to provide the data about those geographic areas that are other databases beyond the ones that



1 are ours, that we control, that can also broaden our understanding of the information 2 that we have about those geographic areas and can help us, I think, to think a little 3 differently about this because we can be looking at national data information and national systems and systems that they have available which can help us to look more 4 5 broadly, collectively at the issues beyond crime information or beyond school system information. But school system data is going to be very critical in this piece as well. 6 7 Well, it's clear that the Council's very interested in this issue. We feel a little paternal, maternal about the after school programs of Rec Extra and Sports Academies given the 8 9 funding that was added in a series of years by the Council. We will continue to work with you either within the Public Safety or the PHED Committee as it relates to recreation 10 and gang information that is more on the deep end. But I think it will behoove us all to 11 continue to massage the message and to sharpen the data that we prepare and clearly 12 define what is the program definition that we're going to place these initiatives as they 13 develop and evaluate them in. What is the box of the category? Thank you all very 14 15 much. We will be back at 1:30.



- 1 Council President Praisner,
- 2 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This is a public hearing on a supplemental
- 3 appropriation to the FY08 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Fire and
- 4 Rescue Service in the amount of \$1,420,850 for Local Fire and Rescue Departments,
- 5 FY07 Senator Amoss Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Fund. A Public Safety Committee
- 6 worksession is tentatively scheduled for October 11th, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. Persons
- 7 wishing to submit additional comments should do so by the close of business today --
- 8 Tuesday, October 9th -- so that your views can be included in the material which staff
- 9 will prepare for Council consideration. I believe there are no speakers for this hearing,
- so the record is closed. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This is a public hearing
- on a supplemental appropriation to the FY08 Capital Budget of Montgomery College in
- the amount of \$1,800,000 for the Cafritz Foundation Art Center. An Education
- 13 Committee worksession is tentatively scheduled for October 22nd at 9:30 a.m. Persons
- wishing to submit additional comments should do so by the close of business on
- 15 Monday, October 15th, so that your views can be included in the material which staff will
- prepare for Council consideration. There are no speakers for this hearing. Good
- afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This is a public hearing on a supplemental
- appropriation to the FY08 Operating Budget of the Conference and Visitors Bureau
- NDA, (Non-Departmental Account) in the amount of \$32,440 for revenue collected for
- the room rental transient tax. Action is scheduled following the hearing. Before
- beginning your presentation, please state your name and address clearly for the record
- 22 and spell any unusual names. There are no speakers. We'll go to the last hearing, and
- then we'll come back for the vote on those two items. And if the clerk can gather up the
- other two councilmembers, I'd appreciate it. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.
- 25 This a public hearing on a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Public
- Works and Transportation's FY08 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY07-12
- 27 Capital Improvements Program in the amount of \$1,474,000 for US Route 29
- 28 Sidewalks. Action is scheduled following the hearing. Before beginning your
- 29 presentation, please state your name and address clearly for the record and spell any
- unusual names. And we have two speakers: Andrew Dempster and Marc Bloom; if you
 - would come forward, please. Push the button in front of you. Thank you.

31 32

- 33 Marc Bloom,
- 34 Thank you. Shall I begin?

35

- 36 Council President Praisner,
- Yes, you may begin -- Andrew too. You can go first, Marc.
- 39 Marc Bloom,
- 40 All right. Good afternoon, distinguished Councilmembers. My name is Marc Bloom --
- 41 Marc, M-A-R-C, B-L-O-O-M -- and I'm the Director of the Division of the Food and Drug
- 42 Administration that is responsible for transportation programs for the FDA White Oak
- campus. We are engaged in a very wide-range of efforts to be as responsible as
- possible in our transportation programs to, as very best we can, mitigate the impacts of



1 the traffic that will be generated by the new White Oak campus as it continues to move towards completion in the next five or six years. As you know, today we have around 2 3 2,000 FDA employees on the campus; and by a year from now, we'll have closer to 4 4,000. And we're well on our way to consolidating almost 8,000 FDA employees there. 5 In the time that we've been on the campus, we've worked extensively with the Montgomery County Government in a very successful partnership that has already 6 7 resulted in substantial expansion of bus service to the campus, which we have greatly 8 appreciated and which will benefit the FDA employees on the campus for years. We're 9 working with the Commuter Connections organization. We're encouraging car pooling 10 and van pooling among our employees. We're even nurturing a fledgling bicycle commuter group that so far is approaching 50 strong; and with 2,000 folks on the 11 12 campus and almost 50 bicycle commuters, we think that bodes well for a couple 13 hundred bicycle commuters by the time the campus is completed. We've got a number of folks who've already moved into the surrounding neighborhoods who walk to work, 14 15 who pick up the 22 bus in the last few blocks before the campus, et cetera. We urgently 16 require these sidewalks and retaining walls to make the commute to White Oak safe for our bicyclists, our pedestrians, and the transit users in the Woodmoor and Northwood 17 Park communities who have to navigate a very dangerous stretch of Colesville Road to 18 19 catch the bus or to bicycle down Route 29. I strongly support the recommendation of the 20 County Executive, the staff, and the Transportation and Environment Committee to 21 approve the supplemental funding so that this critical project can move forward. Thank 22 you very much.

23 24

Council President Praisner, Thank you. Mr. Dempster?

252627

28 29

30

31

32

33

34

35

3637

38

39

40

41 42

Andrew Dempster,

My name is Andrew Dempster, a resident of the town of Kensington. I've lived in Kensington since 1973, and I presently work in White Oak and occasionally bicycle commute to White Oak. The route to -- due to the geography of the Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park, there's really only one access to the north for communities to the south, including Silver Spring and Takoma Park and Kensington where I live. As a result of that, we -- my bicycle commute takes me through this section of US 29 where there's no sidewalks. And on those occasions when I do ride, I often witness pedestrians and transit users and other bicyclists who are navigating this dangerous section. As you know, it's a very high-volume, high-speed section of roadway with curves and steep grades that make it particularly dangerous for people on bicycles. The steep grades include the sides of the roadway, part of which makes this project particularly expensive. So this is a real safety -- as far as I'm concerned, it's a real safety project for pedestrians and transit users. And I'd like to express my support for the County Executive's recommendation, the Council staff recommendation, and the Transportation and Environment Committee's recommendation to support this very important pedestrian safety project. Thank you.



- 1 Council President Praisner,
- 2 Thank you. The record for the hearing is closed. I'll -- let's go back -- question on this

3 item?

4

- 5 Councilmember Floreen,
- 6 Yes.

7 8

- Council President Praisner,
- 9 Councilmember Floreen.

10

- 11 Councilmember Floreen,
- 12 Thank you. Mr. Bloom, did you say you work for the FDA?

13

- 14 Marc Bloom,
- 15 Yes, ma'am. I'm the Director of the Division of Logistics Services for FDA.

16 17

- Councilmember Floreen,
- Oh, how good. Well, then, may I ask you to bring back to the FDA that the County would
- very much appreciate the FDA's contribution to the work that we're doing on pedestrian
- safety and, frankly, traffic management generally in the vicinity of the FDA. I don't
- believe that any federal money associated with FDA is being put into the kinds of
- 22 improvements that are going to improve pedestrian or vehicular access to FDA. That's a
- burden being shouldered largely by the State and the County, as I understand it. And
- 24 we're looking at almost one and a half million dollars for this sidewalk project. And I
- suspect we will be looking at equivalent dollars for the other side of 29, which certainly
- needs those improvements as well. And FDA, frankly, has been an absent player in all
- 27 of this. So in your logistics work, I hope you have some opportunity to communicate with
- the FDA about the County's desire to see the FDA as a real partner in dealing with
- 29 pedestrian safety in particular and accessibility to that facility. I know the security
- measures have driven a lot of the design elements over there. And we're delighted to
- have you in the neighborhood. But we can truly benefit from federal assistance on these site-specific projects. So if you can help us out, we'd be glad to work with you. Thanks.

33 34

- Council President Praisner,
- Thank you very much. This concludes the public hearing. We'll go back to the item
- before this, which is the action on the amendment and the funding of \$32,440 which is
- 37 the Conference and Visitors Bureau share -- after the books were closed on the
- 38 Operating Budget -- the Conference and Visitors Bureau share of the room rental
- transient tax as determined by the legislation that set aside a percentage for the CVB.
- 40 So, is there a motion on that item?

41

- 42 Councilmember Andrews,
- 43 So moved.



1 Council President Praisner,

Councilmember Andrews. Is there a second?

2 3

- 4 Councilmember Floreen,
- 5 Second.

6

- 7 Council President Praisner,
- 8 Councilmember Floreen. All in favor of the motion to approve those funds? [Show of
- 9 hands] That is unanimous among those present. Six votes being required, we have
- seven. And Councilmembers Berliner and Knapp are not present. They're at the
- installation of the new President of Montgomery College; but noted earlier that were
- they present, they would have supported that action. I will now move to the
- 13 supplemental appropriation and CIP Amendment on US 29 Sidewalks. The
- 14 Transportation and Environment Committee did hold a meeting on this item.
- 15 Councilmember Floreen.

16 17

- Councilmember Floreen,
- 18 Well –

19

- 20 Council President Praisner,
- 21 Mic, Nancy.

22

- 23 Councilmember Floreen,
- 24 Oh, thanks. Self-explanatory. We recommend that the County and it would be nice to
- 25 have the FDA helping us fund the increased costs associated with the Route 29
- sidewalks. And the amount in question is a request to amend the CIP with a
- 27 supplemental appropriation of \$1.474 million.

28

- 29 Council President Praisner.
- The Committee's recommendation is before us. Let me echo Councilmember Floreen's
- comments about this needing to be a partnership with the Federal Government as well;
- and also state that it seems to me, it's a little unfortunate that we signed an MOU with
- 33 the State that has the County obligated to pay the increase beyond the agreed-upon
- dollar amount. And even more stressful or distressing to me is the point that the State is
- not going to participate in any sidewalk funding on the west side of 29. That's equally difficult --with the topography, likely to be very expensive. And last time I looked, it was
- a state road. So I'm troubled by the fact that any MOUs appear to have said we're going
- to take over that responsibility. And I do think it's something that needs to be
- renegotiated and discussed. The Committee's recommendation is in front of us. All in
- 40 favor of approving the supplemental? That is unanimous among those present, with the
- same notation about Council Vice President Knapp and Berliner. And we are adjourned.
- 42 Thank you all very much.